

Geo Puzzle

Description:

Children will use geometric shapes to make puzzle pictures.

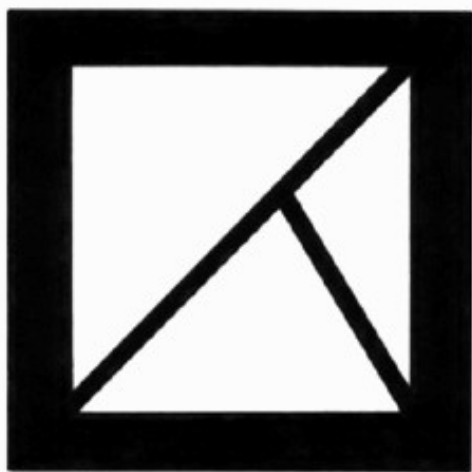
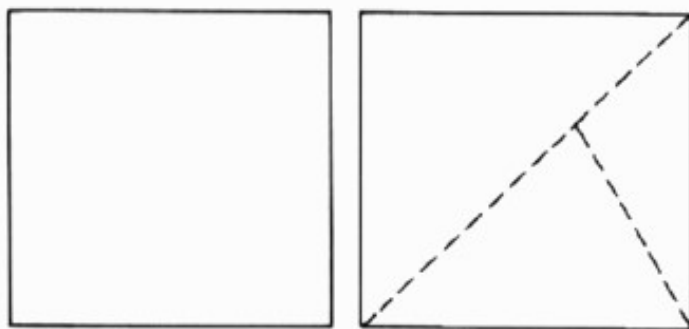
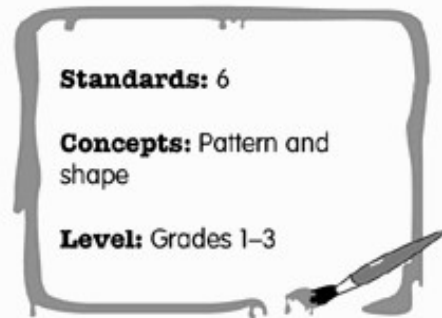
Materials:

construction paper, safety scissors, glue

Standards: 6

Concepts: Pattern and shape

Level: Grades 1–3



Procedure:

Have your child cut a square from construction paper, cut it into three pieces, and reassemble it—with a small amount of space between pieces—on construction paper in a contrasting color.

Extension:

- As your child becomes more comfortable with reassembling the pieces of the puzzle, he can cut the square into more pieces. He can also create triangle, circle, and rectangle puzzles.
- Research tangrams. (See Resources below.)

Artist Tie-in:

Piet Mondrian used geometric shapes in his paintings. He placed colored squares and rectangles against white space, often using thick black lines to separate one shape from another. You can see one of Mondrian's paintings in *JumpStart Artist*.

Just for Kids:

Tangrams originated in China. Squares are cut into seven pieces and used to make various shapes. Cut a square into three pieces, then put the pieces back together. When you have practiced for a while, see how many different shapes you can cut out of a square. What patterns can you create with these shapes? Put your shapes down on the paper and move them around. Don't glue them down until you have a pattern you like. Now try naming all the shapes you've made.

Resources:

<http://forum.swarthmore.edu./trscavo/tangrams.html>
<http://www.geocities.com/Eureka/Suite/3789/>

